

KCC 4809 (K-C 16,733)
PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Previously amended) A continuous length of absorbent material for uninterrupted sequential infeed to a processing machine, comprising:

a first portion of absorbent material having a trailing end;

5 a second portion of absorbent material having a leading end adjacent to and aligned with the trailing end of the first portion of absorbent material thereby defining an aligned junction of the first and second portions having a length extending generally transverse of the first and second portions;

10 the first portion of absorbent material and the second portion of absorbent material each having a length sufficient to form a plurality of absorbent articles;

15 a piece of splicing material attached to both of said trailing end of said first portion and to said leading end of said second portion of absorbent material such that the splicing material extends continuously over a majority of the length of the aligned junction, said splicing material including fibers having polyolefin content and having a fluid permeability at least about 25% as great as a fluid permeability of said first
20 portion of absorbent material and at least about 25% as great as said second portion of absorbent material.

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13. (Original) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 12 wherein said splicing material has a fluid permeability at least about as great as a fluid permeability of said first portion of absorbent material and at least about as great as said second portion of absorbent material.

14. (Original) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein said piece of splicing material is thermally bonded to said trailing end of said first portion and to said leading end of said second portion.

15. (Original) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 14 wherein said piece of splicing material comprises a carded web of bicomponent fibers.

Claims 16-21 (Cancelled).

22. (Previously presented) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 12 wherein said first and second portions of absorbent material each include fibers having polyolefin content.

23. (New) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 12 wherein said piece of splicing material is thermally bonding to said first and second portions of absorbent material.

24. (New) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 12 wherein said splicing material is a carded web comprising bicomponent fibers.

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25. (New) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 12 wherein the trailing end of said first portion is arranged squarely end-to-end adjacent the leading end of said second portion.

26. (New) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 12 wherein said trailing end of said first portion overlaps the leading end of said second portion.

27. (New) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 12 wherein each of said ends of the first and second portions of absorbent material has a first major surface and an opposite second major surface, and wherein the piece of splicing material comprises is attached to at least one of said first and second major surfaces of each of said ends.

28. (New) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 27 wherein the first surface of the trailing end of the first portion and the first surface of the leading end of the second portion are oriented in an identical direction, and wherein said piece of splicing material is attached to the first surface of the trailing end of the first portion and to the first surface of the leading end of the second portion.

29. (New) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 28 wherein said piece of splicing material is a first piece of splicing material attached to said first surface of the trailing end of the first portion and to said first surface of the leading end of the second portion, further comprising a second piece of splicing material attached to the second surface of the trailing end of the first portion and to the second surface of the leading end of the second portion.

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30. (New) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 27 wherein the first surface of the trailing end of the first portion and the first surface of the leading end of the second portion are oriented in an identical direction, and
5 wherein said piece of splicing material is attached to the first surface of the end of the first portion and to the second surface of the end of the second portion.

31. (New) A continuous length of absorbent material as set forth in claim 27 wherein the piece of splicing material is wrapped around both of said surfaces of each of said ends.